Regulator Vent Guidelines Review

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Purpose

- Our goal today is to collaboratively analyze the implementation of this guidance thus far and determine better ways to remediate issues found, as well as discussing what, if any, changes to the guidance may be needed.

Guidance for Location of Service Regulators and Vents (§192.353 and §192.355)

- *During the Pipeline Safety Conference held on October 23-25, 2012, the representatives of the Virginia Gas Operators and the Commission Staff discussed and agreed on the following guidance relative to the proper location of service regulators and vents or outlets for vents for new or replaced service regulators, vents, and vent piping:*

PIPELINE SAFETY
make it personal!

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1. The regulator vent must be located a minimum of 3 feet horizontally away from any openings[1] into buildings, and the regulator vent or vent outlet shall not be installed underneath any openings located on the first floor of the building.

2. The regulator vent or vent outlet must be located a minimum of 3 feet horizontally away from any rotating electrical equipment and shall not be installed underneath any such equipment.

3. The regulator vent or vent outlet shall be at least 10 feet[2] horizontally away from any powered intake vents.

4. Where possible the operator shall maintain a minimum of 3 feet of radial separation between the regulator vent or vent outlet and any electric meters, electrical equipment disconnecting boxes, electrical outlets, etc. However, at no time, a regulator vent or vent outlet shall be installed with less than 1 foot of radial separation from any electric meters, electrical equipment disconnecting boxes, electrical outlets, etc.

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[1] Openings do not include fixed windows or doors that cannot be opened and are sealed to prevent opening.

[2] Pursuant to the International Residential Building Code (2009) adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Openings into Buildings

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Openings into Buildings

Remediating Issues During Renewal

- Operators have mainly utilized 2 methods for remediating existing compliance issues when renewing a service:
  - Moving the meter
  - Using additional vent piping to pipe away the termination of the regulator vent to a location in compliance with the guidance

- As a result, many residential services now look like the following pictures:

Additional Vent Piping

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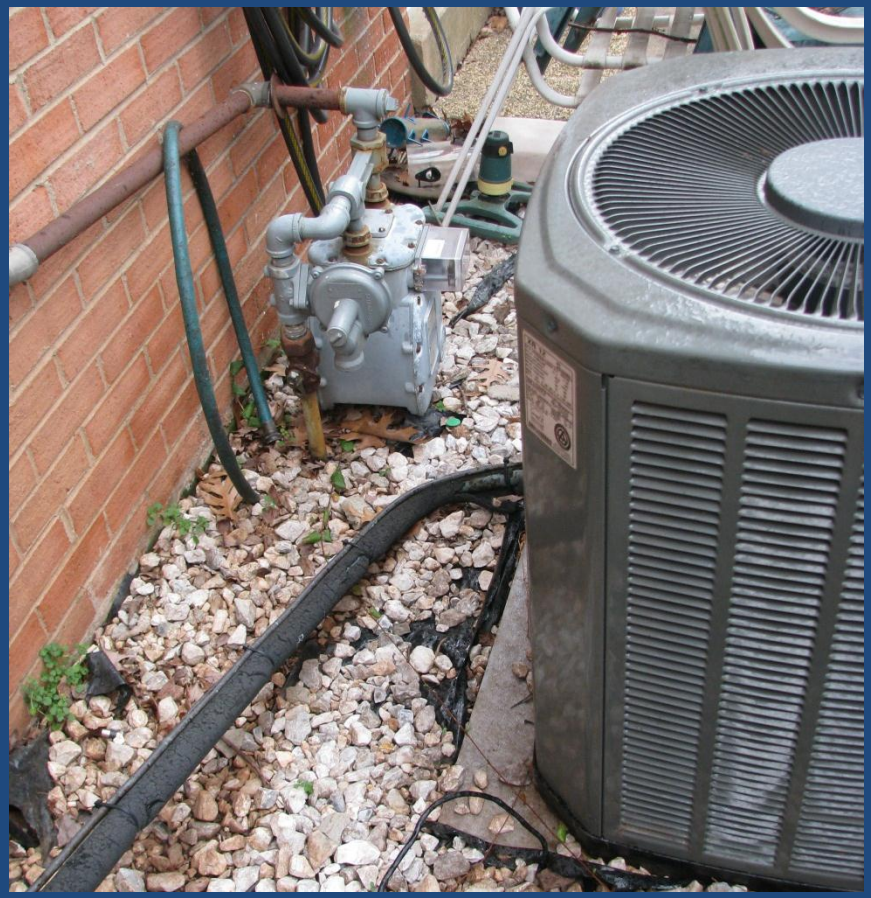
Discussion: Split-Level and Tri-Level Houses

- Operators have expressed concerns regarding how they should handle split-level and tri-level houses in order to meet the “openings on the first floor” requirement

Rotating Electrical Equipment

- The regulator vent or vent outlet must be located a minimum of 3 feet horizontally away from any rotating electrical equipment and shall not be installed underneath any such equipment.

Rotating Electrical Equipment



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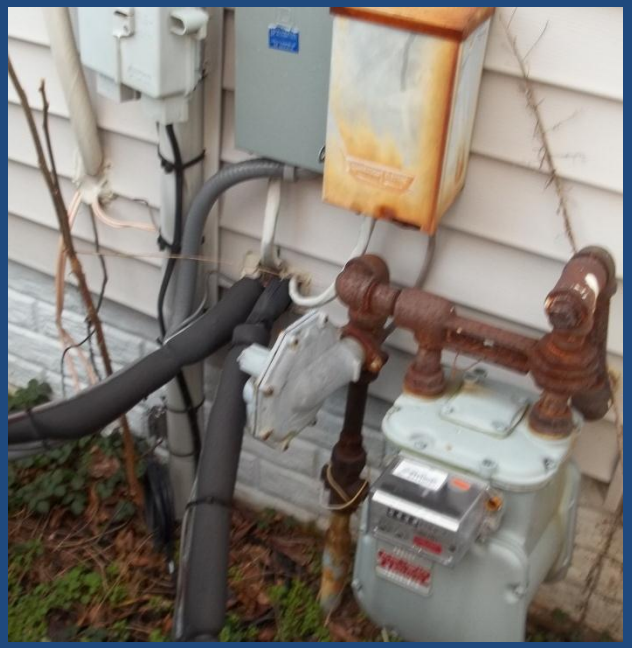

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Further Questions?